



January 8, 2016



Student Visas & Travel Fact Sheet

Facts and Figures regarding Indian Students at U.S. Higher Educational Institutions

- Prospective students can choose from nearly 9,000 colleges, universities, and vocational schools in the United States that are authorized by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to issue I-20 forms to enroll international students.
- Currently, there are over 974,000 international students studying in the United States.
- In recent years, the growth in Indian students studying in the U.S. was greater than that from any other country. India is currently second only to China in the number of students in the United States.
- In 2015, the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in India issued over 72,000 F-1 student visas.
- Ten years ago, there were around 30,000 Indian students studying in the United States. Today it is more than four times that number. In just the last year, the number of Indian students in the United States increased by almost 30 percent from 102,000 to more than 132,000.
- Over the last 12 months, student visa applications doubled at the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in India, especially in Mumbai and Hyderabad, the two busiest posts for student visa applications.
- 78 percent of Indian students opt to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.





Services of Education USA

- The U.S. Embassy encourages prospective students to start their school search by using the free resources provided by EducationUSA (<https://educationusa.state.gov/>).
- EducationUSA is the official source for information on U.S. higher education. There are seven EducationUSA Advising Centers in India at three host institutions: USIEF (offices in Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai), IAES in Ahmedabad, and Yashna Trust in Bangalore. Together their 30 EducationUSA advisors assist students in accessing U.S. higher education opportunities through virtual and in-person group advising sessions, outreach presentations, and one-on-one consultations.
 - Last year (October 2014 – September 2015), approximately 100,000 people contacted the seven EducationUSA centers for advice, more than half by telephone or email. In addition, EducationUSA advisors reached more than 60,000 students through visits to local schools and universities, education fairs, and U.S. Mission-organized events.
 - EducationUSA Advising Centers offer free group information sessions, access to higher education resources, and limited telephonic and email consultations. Students interested in more extensive one-on-one advising may access fee-based services at an EducationUSA center. All EducationUSA sessions are open to the public.

Students complete these steps to pursue studies in the United States:

- 1. Acceptance at an Approved School:** Acceptance is shown by an approved I-20 or DS-2019 form and the I-901 SEVIS fee receipt. Visit the Department of State [EducationUSA website](https://educationusa.state.gov/) to learn about educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate study, opportunities for scholars, admissions, and more.
- 2. Complete the online Visa Application, Form DS-160**
(<https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>)





3. **Gather the required documentation** listed at:
<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange/student.html>
4. **Schedule a visa interview** according to the instructions at
www.ustraveldocs.com/in.
5. **Appear for an interview** and make a visa application.
6. **If found eligible under U.S. law** and issued a visa, travel to the United States port-of-entry and request permission to enter the United States.

Learn more about the procedures and documentation for students entering the United States at <http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/study-exchange/exchange-arrivals>

The United States looks forward to welcoming bona fide students from India to study in the United States.

